A Century of Painting in Panama
An Exhibition that Celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Panama

Roberto Lewis
b. Panama City, Panama, 1874 - d. Panama City, Panama, 1949
Tamarindos (Tamarind Trees), 1942
Oil on canvas, 76.2 x 122 cms.
Collection of the Embassy of the Republic of Panama to the United States, Washington, DC
Photo: Gregory R. Staley

Open November 6, 2003 to January 16, 2004
The Cultural Center of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) announces the opening of the exhibition

A Century of Painting in Panama
An Exhibition that Celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Panama

Open November 6, 2003 to January 16, 2004

This exhibition presents exceptional paintings by 25 outstanding artists selected from a survey of a wide-ranging group of art connoisseurs, historians, critics, professors and art dealers in Panama. The presentation gives the public an overview of the development of painting in Panama over the century.

Washington, DC, October 16, 2003

A Century of Painting in Panama, an exhibition of 29 paintings by 25 artists from Panama, active throughout the century of its first centennial, will open to the public on November 6, at the Art Gallery of the Cultural Center of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

The exhibition has been organized by the IDB Cultural Center as part of the Center’s Exhibitions Program. Logistical support has been provided by the IDB Country Office in Panama and its Representative Mr. Jeremy S. Gould, with the collaboration of the Alternate Executive Director for Panama and Venezuela, Mr. Eduardo Linares.

Dr. Mónica E. Kupfer, Former Curator of the Panama’s Museum of Contemporary Art, was invited as Associate Curator for this exhibition. She also wrote the text for the catalogue and will give a lecture on recent developments in the art of Panama on
November 6th, at 12.30 p.m. Please check calendar of events, in the IDB Cultural Center Website www.iadb.org/cultural/

The works were selected by the Curator Félix Angel from private and public collections in Panama and Washington DC, including the Embassy of the Republic of Panama to the United States and the Art Museum of the Americas, Organization of American States; and from Panama, the Museum of Contemporary Art, LIMCA Foundation, Dr. César Pereira B., Mr. and Mrs. Eloy Alfaro, Mr. Adolfo Arias, Mr. and Mrs. Jean Claude Augrain, Mrs. Shirley Berger, Mr. and Mrs. Rodrigo Eisenmann, Mr. and Mrs. Fernando Eleta, Mr. and Mrs. José Fierro, Mr. Horacio Icaza, Mr. and Mrs. John Maduro, Dr. Juan David Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. Marcelo Narbona, Mr. and Mrs. Roberto Rodríguez, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Wiznitzer, Mr. and Mrs. George Zelenka, and participating artists Guillermo Trujillo, Manuel Chong Neto, Teresa Icaza, and Tabo Toral.

Mrs. Mirna Liévano de Marques, IDB External Relations Advisor, has said that “To celebrate the century that Panama has been a nation is to celebrate the youngest of all the young republics of Latin America. Like all nations, Panama is a complex and collective creation, so what could better represent it than the dimension of creativity that is the freest of all: the arts.”

“We are most pleased to celebrate Panama’s first 100 years by presenting this exhibition that complements a previous Cultural Center exhibition in 1995 entitled “Crossing Panama,” (also curated by Félix Angel) which provided a history of the isthmus nation through its diverse artistic manifestations ranging from ancient ceramics to paintings from the country’s early history.”

Although the concept of art has broadened noticeably in recent years, painting has been and remains the principal means of aesthetic expression in Panama. A complete view of the development of art in Panama over its century as an independent republic would include, however, the names of several hundred painters.

In this exhibition the selection includes early 20th century artists such as Roberto Lewis, who practically became the “official” artist of the new republic after its secession from Colombia in 1903. Lewis was also an educator and influenced the first generation of Panamanian artists, among them Humberto Ivaldi, Juan Manuel Cedeño and Eudoro Silvera. An independent, eccentric figure and contemporary of Lewis, Manuel Amador is represented with two paintings which constitute a rarity since most of his work was not appreciated during his lifetime and deteriorated due to deficient conservation in the tropical climate of Panama.

Mid-century painters, probably the first international generation of Panamanian artists, include Alfredo Sinclair, Alberto Dutary, Manuel Chong Neto, Coqui Calderón, Trixie Briceño, Antonio Alvarado, Julio Zachrisson and Guillermo Trujillo. The last two are probably the best known internationally from their generation. All of them have exhibited at one time or another at the Organization of American States, in Washington, D.C.
The end of the 20th century boasts a number of interesting artists, many of whom have joined the international art scene, such as Tabo Toral, Teresa Icaza, Isabel de Obaldía (who was born in Washington, D.C) and Brooke Alfaro. In the last few years, Alfaro has been working with video after dedicating twenty years to painting (he won First Prize at the First Latin American and Caribbean Video Art Competition and Exhibition organized by the IDB Cultural Center in 2002). His two paintings selected for the exhibition represent his style very well.

Panama has a long association with the Inter-American Development Bank, having been one of the Bank’s founding members in 1959. The country also has several characteristics that distinguish it from other Latin American nations. Panama is a historic point of hemispheric transit, a crossroads between north and south and the Pacific and the Caribbean, which is the Mediterranean Sea of the Americas. Its unique history is linked to Spain, Colombia and the United States. For many years Panama was considered a South American nation, while in more recent times it has become closer to the countries of Central America, with which Panama shares aspirations for economic integration.

The construction of enormous public works in transportation and communications during the latter part of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century—particularly railroads and the inter-oceanic canal—produced migrations that transformed Panama’s social and political topography and enriched its religious, cultural and linguistic patrimony. Today, the country’s diverse population includes not only indigenous groups but also people of European, African, Caribbean and Asian origin.

The IDB has long supported not only economic and social development in Panama, but also its integration initiatives with the Central American countries. With this exhibition, the Bank has the opportunity to celebrate Panama’s culture, that subtle dimension of a society that liberates the mind, spurs the imagination, and strengthens a nation’s identity and social fabric.

**Artists and Works in the Exhibition**

- **Roberto Lewis**  
  b. Panama City, Panama, 1874 - d. Panama City, Panama, 1949  
  *Tamarindos (Tamarind Trees)*, 1942  
  Oil on canvas, 76.2 x 122 cms.  
  Collection of the Embassy of the Republic of Panama to the United States, Washington, DC.

- **Manuel E. Amador**  
  b. Santiago de Veraguas, Panama, 1909 - d. Panama City, Panama, 1952  
  *Fesuuhes, N.Y.*, 1912  
  Oil on wood  
  38.10 x 48.26 cms.  
  Collection of Dr. César Pereira B., Panama
Maternidad (Maternity), c.1945
Oil on wood, 62 x 54 cms.
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Guillermo Trujillo, Panama

- **Humberto Ivaldi**
b. Panama City, Panama, 1909 - d. Panama City, Panama, 1947
*Tambor de Orden*, n/d
Oil, 57 x 42 cms.
Collection of the LIMCA Foundation, Panama

- **Eudoro Silvera**
b. David, Panama, 1917
*Bodegón con Piña (Still Life with Pineapple)*, 1951
Oil on canvas, 37 x 44 cms.
Collection of Mr. Adolfo Arias, Panama

- **Juan Manuel Cedeño**
b. La Villa de Los Santos, Panama, 1914 - d. Panama City, Panama, 1997
*Las Celestinas (The Procuresses)*, 1968
Oil on canvas, 145 x 98 cms.
Collection of Mrs. Shirley Berger, Panama

- **Isaac Benítez**
b. Panama City, Panama, 1927 - d. Panama City, Panama, 1968
*Mar Revuelto (Stormy Sea)*, c.1961
Industrial paint on wood
58.42 x 74.93 x 5.08 cms.
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. John Maduro, Panama

- **Alfredo Sinclair**
b. Panama City, Panama, 1915
*Sin Título (Untitled)*, 1960
Mixed media on canvas
87.63 x 121.92 x 5.08 cms.
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. George Zelenka, Panama

- **Guillermo Trujillo**
b. Horconcitos, Panama, 1927
*Iconografía del Cantoral Chocoe (Iconography of the Chocoe Hymnal)*, 1972
Oil on canvas, 87 x 93 cms.
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Wiznitzer, Panama

- **Alberto Dutary**
b. Panama City, Panama, 1932 - d. Panama City, Panama, 1998
*Personajes al Crepúsculo (Figures at Twilight)*, 1960
Oil and collage on canvas
96.52 x 119.38 cms.
Collection of the Art Museum of the Americas, Organization of American States, Washington, DC, Gift of Joseph Cantor

- **Manuel Chong Neto**
b. Panama City, Panama, 1927
*Personajes con Buitre, Perro y Bufón (Characters with Vulture, Dog and Buffoon)*, 1970
Oil on canvas, 91.44 x 121.92 cms.
Collection of the artist, Panama

- **Adriano Herrerabarría**
b. Panama City, Panama, 1928
*Balseros en el Tiempo (Rafters Through Time)*, 1995
Tempera and oil on canvas
58.42 x 76.20 cms.
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Fernando Eleta, Panama

- **Trixie Briceño**
*País Incógnito (Incognito Nation)*, 1970
Oil on canvas, 109.22 x 91.44 cms.
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Jean Claude Augrain, Panama
• **Julio Zachrisson**  
b. Panama City, Panama, 1930  
*Alucinado (Hallucinated)*, 1976  
Mixed media on wood  
100 x 80 cms.  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Rodrigo Eisenmann, Panama

• **Coqui Calderón**  
b. Panama City, Panama, 1938  
*Countdown (Cuenta Regresiva)*, 1967  
Acrylic on canvas, 102 x 102 cms.  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Jean Claude Augrain, Panama

• **Olga Sánchez**  
b. Panama City, Panama, 1921  
*Larga Espera (Long Wait)*, 1961  
Oil on canvas, 92 x 65 cms.  
Permanent Collection of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Panama

• **Antonio Alvarado**  
b. Le Havre, France 1938  
*Gotama No. 3 (Gotama No. 3)*, 1983  
Acrylic, 107.95 x 107.95 cms.  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Eloy Alfaro, Panama

• **Mario Calvit**  
b. Panama City, Panama, 1933  
*Cabalgando con Viento Norte (Riding with the North Wind)*, 1984  
Mixed media on paper, 30 x 40 cms.  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. José Fierro, Panama

• **Tabo Toral**  
b. Boquete, Panama, 1950  
Pata Milkshake II (Pata Milkshake II), 2001  
Oil on canvas, 149.86 x 149.86 cms.  
Collection of the artist, Panama

• **Teresa Icaza**  
b. Panama City, Panama, 1940  
*Navegante (Voyager)*, 2003  
Oil and collage on canvas

101.60 x 101.60 cms.  
Collection of the artist, Panama

• **Amalia Tapia**  
b. Panama City, Panama, 1949  
*Bahía (Bay)*, 2002  
Oil on canvas, 121.92 x 152.40 cms.  
Collection of Dr. Juan David Morgan, Panama

• **David Solís**  
b. Panama City, Panama, 1953  
*Segunda Ronda (Second Watch)*, 2002  
Oil on canvas, 119.38 x 119.38 cms.  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Eloy Alfaro, Panama

• **Olga Sinclair**  
b. Panama City, Panama, 1957  
*Naturaleza Muerta (Still Life)*, 2000  
Oil on canvas, 76.2 x 99.06 cms.  
Private collection, Panama

• **Raúl Vásquez**  
b. La Villa de Los Santos, Panama, 1954-  
*El Juega Conejos (The Rabbit Juggler)*, 1989  
Oil on canvas, 115.57 x 115.57 cms.  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Marcelo Narbona, Panama

• **Isabel de Obaldía**  
b. Washington, D.C., 1957  
*Aguas Turbias (Muddy Waters)*, 1989  
Oil on canvas, 101.60 x 152.40 cms.  
Collection of Mr. Horacio Icaza, Panama

• **Brooke Alfaro**  
b. Panama City, Panama, 1949  
*Brindis (Toast)*, 1991  
Oil on canvas, 101.60 x 76.20 cms.  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Marcelo Narbona, Panama

101.60 x 76.20 cms.  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Roberto Rodríguez, Panama
Panamanian art historian Mónica E. Kupfer, will present Breaking Barriers: Panamanian Art since 1990. Art in Panama has changed dramatically, as has the country, since the end of the military dictatorship in late 1989. The 1990s were years during which Panama had to redefine its national identity, as its citizens worked towards the fulfillment of the Canal Treaty, which mandated the handover of the waterway at the end of the millennium. On the cultural front, it was a time of revitalization during which art grew in novel directions as artists experimented with innovative ideas and techniques, enjoying the freer environment afforded by democracy. As of 1992, a major impetus was provided by the Panama Art Biennials, forward-looking juried shows that promoted the development of a more diversified group of artists. In addition to a great number of painters, the past decade has witnessed an upsurge of creators coming to the world of art from other professions. Increasingly, many of these young figures, as well as older artists who have joined the renewal, have gone beyond esthetics to focus on urban, ecological and sociopolitical issues. In works ranging from paintings to computer and video art, they have broken the barriers of tradition and provincialism, introducing Panamanian audiences to a more progressive concept of contemporary art.

Exhibit
The exhibition will run from November 6, 2003 through January 16, 2004. A 40-page full color catalogue reproducing all works in the exhibit will be available in English to the public.

The Art Gallery is open five days a week, Monday through Friday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., free of charge.
Photographs of the artwork on exhibit are available upon request, please call (202) 623-1213. For guided tours of groups of 10 or more (in English or Spanish) and for additional information about the IDB Cultural Center and its programs, please call (202) 623-3774.

Lecture
Lectures are held at the Andrés Bello Auditorium, IDB main building, 9th Floor. Free admission and limited seating. For more information please call (202) 623-3558.

The IDB Cultural Center is located at 1300 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. The nearest Metro station is Metro Center (13th Street exit). All the events are free of charge.

The Cultural Center home page is located at: www.iadb.org/cultural/
E-mail address: IDBCC@iadb.org

IDB Cultural Center contacts:

- Félix Angel, General Coordinator and Curator (202) 623-3325
- Soledad Guerra, Assistant General Coordinator (202) 623-1213
- Anne Vena, Concerts and Lectures Coordinator (202) 623-3558
- Elba Agusti, Cultural Development in the Field Program and Administrative Assistant (202) 623-3774
- Susannah Rodee, IDB Art Collection Managing and Conservation Assistant (202) 623-3278
A Century of Painting in Panama
An Exhibition that Celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Panama

Selection of works in the exhibition

Manuel E. Amador
b. Santiago de Veraguas, Panama, 1909 - d. Panama City, Panama, 1952
*Maternidad (Maternity)*, c.1945
Oil on wood, 62 x 54 cms.
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Guillermo Trujillo, Panama
Photo: Ricardo Rodaniche

Alberto Dutary
b. Panama City, Panama, 1932 - d. Panama City, Panama, 1998
*Personajes al Crepúsculo (Figures at Twilight)*, 1960
Oil and collage on canvas, 96.52 x 119.38 cms.
Collection of the Art Museum of the Americas, Organization of American States, Washington, DC, Gift of Joseph Cantor
Photo: Gregory R. Staley

Guillermo Trujillo
b. Horconcitos, Panama, 1927
*Tres Maestros (Three Masters)*, 1988
Oil on canvas, 76.20 x 91.44 cms.
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Wiznitzer, Panama
Photo: Ricardo Rodaniche

Brooke Alfaro
b. Panama City, Panama, 1949
*Brindis (Toast)*, 1991
Oil on canvas, 101.60 x 76.20 cms.
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Marcelo Narbona, Panama
Photo: Ricardo Rodaniche